

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire; and

a filter assembly disposed on the guide wire, the filter assembly including an expandable cage and filtering element attached to the cage, the cage being movable between an unexpanded and expanded position, the cage including a circumferential member which forms an inlet opening for the filtering element when placed in the expanded position, the guide wire extending through the inlet opening of the circumferential member and the circumferential member being positioned at a slant with respect to the body vessel when placed in the expanded position; and means for maintaining the guide wire substantially centered through the circumferential member when the cage is placed in the expanded position.

38. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 36, wherein the cage is rotatably mounted on the guide wire.

39-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire; and

a filter assembly disposed on the guide wire, the filter assembly including an expandable cage and filtering element attached to the cage, the cage being movable between an unexpanded and expanded position, the cage including a circumferential member which forms an inlet opening for the filtering element when placed in the expanded position, a single proximal strut

having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end coupled to the guide wire, the proximal strut being configured to maintain the guide wire substantially centered through the inlet opening of the circumferential member when the cage is placed in the expanded position.

43. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 42, wherein the circumferential member is adapted to be positioned at a slant with respect to the body vessel when placed in the expanded position.

44. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 42, wherein the cage is rotatably mounted to the guide wire.

45. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 42, further including a distal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end coupled to the guide wire.

46. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 42, further including a plurality of distal struts each having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end coupled to the guide wire

47. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 45, wherein the proximal strut and the distal strut maintain the guide wire substantially centered in the circumferential member when the cage is placed in the expanded position.

48-49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 37, wherein the circumferential member is adapted to sealingly contact the body vessel when placed in the expanded position to form a single inlet opening for capturing embolic debris.

51. (Previously Presented) The embolic filtering device of claim 42, wherein the circumferential member is adapted to sealingly contact the body vessel when placed in the expanded position to form a single inlet opening for capturing embolic debris.

52. (New) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire; and

a filter assembly disposed on the guide wire, the filter assembly including an expandable cage and filtering element attached to the cage, the cage being movable between expanded and collapsed positions, the cage including a single circumferential member forming an oval-shaped inlet opening placed in the expanded position, a single proximal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end attached to the guide wire, at least one distal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end attached to the guide wire, the guide wire extending through the inlet opening of the circumferential member wherein the proximal strut being configured to maintain the guide wire substantially centered through the inlet opening of the circumferential member when the cage is placed in the expanded position.

53. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 52, wherein the second end of the proximal strut is rotatably mounted to the guide wire.

54. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 52, wherein the distal strut helps to maintain the guide wire substantially centered in the circumferential member when the cage is placed in the expanded position.

55. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 52, wherein the second end of the distal strut is rotatably attached to the guide wire.

56. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 55, further including a second distal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end attached to the guide wire.

57. (New) An embolic filtering device used to capture embolic debris in a body vessel, comprising:

a guide wire; and

a filter assembly disposed on the guide wire, the filter assembly including an expandable cage and filtering element attached to the cage, the cage being movable between expanded and collapsed positions, the cage including a single circumferential member forming an oval-shaped inlet opening placed in the expanded position, the circumferential member having a proximal bending region and a distal bending region formed thereon, a proximal strut having a first end attached to proximal bending region and a second end attached to the guide wire, a distal strut having a first end attached to the distal bending region and a second end attached to the guide wire, the guide wire extending through and substantially centered in the inlet opening of the circumferential member.

58. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 57, wherein the second end of the proximal strut is rotatably mounted to the guide wire.

59. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 57, wherein the proximal and distal struts help to maintain the guide wire substantially centered in the circumferential member when the cage is placed in the expanded position.

60. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 57, wherein the second end of the distal strut is rotatably attached to the guide wire.

61. (New) The embolic filtering device of claim 57, further including a second distal strut having a first end attached to the circumferential member and a second end attached to the guide wire.